

REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 12-17 and 28-36 are pending in this application.

Claims 12-17 and 29-36 are allowed.

Claims 2-3, 8-10 and 28 are objected to.

Claims 1 and 4-7 are rejected.

The Office Action dated 22 Jan. 2008 indicates that the finality of the previous rejection has been withdrawn. Examiner Nguyen is thanked for entering the complete Rule 131 declaration and withdrawing the finality of the previous rejection.

The office action indicates that claims 2-3, 8-10 and 28 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of previously presented claim 1. Amended claim 2 and its dependent claims 3 and 8-10 should now be allowed. Claim 28 has been rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of previously presented claim 1 and intervening claim 4. Amended claim 28 should now be allowed.

The Office Action indicates that claims 1 and 4-7 are now rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Stanford U.S. Patent No. 5,357,448.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a method that includes estimating an ink thickness control parameter based on past measurements of at least one state parameter of a digital printing press without measuring optical density of ink on a print.

Stanford discloses a method that includes measuring spectra of light reflected by base colors at a desired ink density, and storing these measurements as calibration parameters (col. 7, lines 11-14). These calibration

parameters may be measured before printing begins (col. 7, lines 19-21). Afterward, actual values reflectance values of a printed image are measured col. 7, lines 42-46). These actual values and the calibration values are sent to a circuit 46, which determines EDDs for the printed image (col. 7, lines 47+). EDDs refer to "effective dot density " (col. 1, lines 47-55). The circuit 46 generates an error signal. If the error signal is acceptable, a control circuit 34 makes no changes to the settings of ink supplies 30. But if the error is not acceptable, circuit 52 determines ink supply settings to reduce EDD errors for the next image. It alters the amount of base ink (col. 7, lines 54 to col. 8, line 8). Calibration parameters are measured off-line, before printing begins (col. 7, lines 19+).

Thus, Stanford does not teach or suggest the method of amended claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 and its dependent claims 4, 7 and 37 (which is new) should be allowed. Claims 5-6 have been cancelled.

The examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to discuss any issues that might remain.

Respectfully submitted,
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